

Niagara Health

2022 PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



▲ *Master of Applied Health Sciences student Quinten Carfagnini was one of more than a dozen presenters from Brock at Niagara Health's Annual Research Day on April 28, 2022.*

On March 8, 2019, Niagara Health and Brock University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize a collaboration that places a focus on co-creating research and student experiences that help people stay healthy and improve both patient outcomes and the way health care is delivered across Niagara. Together, Brock and Niagara Health are working towards a shared commitment of improving the health and vitality of residents in Niagara. The agreement represents the mutual advantage of working together in research and knowledge mobilization to inform local health care delivery and provide real world experiences for students to apply and inform in-class learning.

Projects and Initiatives in 2022

As two of the largest organizations in the region, the partnership between Brock and Niagara Health was formalized to improve the overall health and well-being in our region and beyond. It places a heightened focus on research that will help people stay healthy, improve both patient outcomes and the way health care is delivered, and create training and employment opportunities for Brock students and graduates.

Research

Niagara Health and Brock University collaborated on a variety of studies and co-created meaningful research through partnership with researchers from across the university.

In 2022, collaborative research included:

Interprofessional Education for Quality Improvement Program (I-EQUIP)

I-EQUIP was created in 2012 by Dr. Madelyn Law at Brock University in the Department of Health Sciences. I-EQUIP aims to provide experiential education opportunities for students to learn about and apply change management, quality improvement and teamwork principles to project to enhance health services and programs. In 2022, I-EQUIP collaborated with Niagara Health on ongoing projects including:

- Connecting patients with primary care for long acting injectables
- Neonatal Ontario Telemedicine Network Care
- Review of Visitor Restriction in Hospitals
- Niagara @ Home – Integrated Comprehensive Care pathways for individuals transitioning home.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences

The Faculty of Applied Health Science is involved in several research projects including:

- Peds-TECH
 - This project is a major collaboration across Brock, Niagara Health and McMaster Children's Hospital focusing on how Pediatric Telemedicine is connecting hospitals. This collaboration originated from an I-EQUIP project

- Two master's theses were completed in August 2022 focused on the Peds-TECH project.
- Collaborated with:
 - Dr. Madelyn P Law, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
 - Dr. Brent Faught, Professor, Health Sciences
 - Dr. Asif Khowaja, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
- Physical demands in ultrasound technicians
 - This project evaluates biomechanical loading and injury risk across patient sizes.
 - Collaborated with:
 - Mike Holmes, Associate Professor Kinesiology, Canada Research Chair in Neuromuscular Mechanics and Ergonomics, Brock University
 - Thomas Longland, Occupational Health and Safety, Niagara Health
 - Krystle Etherington, Injury Prevention Consultant, Niagara Health
- Hospital factors of reducing emergency department patient overflow
 - The main objective of this project is to understand factors impacting alternative level care. As well as to grasp an understanding of patient factors and clinical care processes impacting ALC.
 - Supported by:
 - Brent Faught, Professor, Health Sciences
 - Madelyn P Law, Associate Professor, Health Sciences
 - Anteh Ayanso, Goodman School of Business

Niagara Health Research Day

- Brock was highly involved in the annual Niagara Health Research Day took place virtually in February 2022.
- Dr. Madelyn Law was invited as a guest panelist and many Brock students engaged in virtual presentations.
- This annual research day showcases the ongoing collaborations between Niagara Health and Brock in terms of research and student experiential learning.

Service

Niagara Health and Brock University supported each other through service in several ways in 2022. These mutually beneficial efforts worked towards addressing their shared priority of helping people stay healthy and improving patient outcomes:

- Brock University's Barry Wright, Dean of the Goodman School of Business, served as a Director on Niagara Health's Board of Directors.
- Brock University Student Union's Music and Memory Club is ongoing from 2021.
- Brock put on an EDI Workshop Series. Zainab Awad from Niagara Health was a guest speaker for the three-part EDI workshop series.

Student Experiential Learning

Student experiential learning provides unique opportunities for students at the university to gain real world experience as part of their studies.

In 2022, the partnership between Brock University and Niagara Health facilitated experiential learning opportunities including:

- Brock's experiential education created a Practicum in Therapeutic Recreation for four students from September 2022 to March 2023.
- Experiential education has established Hepatitis Awareness Programming and Event Support.
- Co-op education has a Niagara Health Sciences Student Placement in Spring/Summer 2022: the student worked within the Long-Term Care division at the hospital, she worked on an evaluation project whereby she researched various options to support patients with dementia.
- Career education has created in-hospital volunteer opportunities as well as research project volunteer support. This opportunity allows students to provide clinical and research related support across three sites and virtually from January 1, 2021, to November 30, 2022.

Next Steps

Brock University and Niagara Health collaborated on a variety of research and student experience initiatives in 2022. Together they advanced their shared goal of collaborating with one another to provide meaningful student educational experiences and co-creating research that helps Niagara residents stay healthy and improve both patient outcomes and health care delivery in Niagara.

2023 presents an exciting opportunity to build on successful ongoing partnership activities as well as to explore new ways that Brock University and Niagara Health can work collaboratively to improve the health of Niagara's residents.

This includes:

- New I-EQUIP research projects that explore:
 - Review of the Fit to Sit program in the emergency department;
 - Understanding best practices in testing for infections in the Neonatal units;
 - Review of the critical incident reporting process; and
 - Understanding stigma of patient with substance use.
- Establishing additional student experiential learning opportunities including therapeutic recreation practicum(s) and an internship in therapeutic recreation.